

SOCIAL ACTION NEWSLETTER

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Organize to Meet Growing Racial Tensions

Challenged by the growing signs of increasing tensions between race groups in the U. S. a number of organizations are taking constructive steps to meet the situation. The July-August issue of "Social Action Newsletter" announced the appointment of a Committee Against Race Discrimination instituted by the American Civil Liberties Union and headed by Mrs. Pearl Buck, noted novelist.

The Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, through its department of race relations, announces that it will seek to enlist in each community, through local church congregations, local councils of churches, YMCA, YWCA, or other agencies, groups of people who will commit themselves "to act positively and constructively wherever racial tensions can be corrected and interracial justice and goodwill advanced." These groups will work within their own circles to allay tensions and create goodwill. They will also gather and make available information about conditions that lead to ill-will, such as bad housing, economic injustices, police discriminations, and the like. They will seek to allay rumors and to establish mutual confidence between people of different races, cultivate mutual acquaintances and establish contacts between racial groups. It is hoped that as these groups are organized in local churches they may form community-wide race relations committees in which minority race groups will share responsibility with majority groups, and that studies in local conditions conducive to tension may be begun before outbreaks actually occur. In times of stress such committees could do much to hold community sentiment steady and to maintain law and order. Suggestions are made for conferences with city officials, industrial employers labor groups, newspaper editors, and other leaders of opinion, looking to prevention to clashes. A simple form of commitment is recommended, which is worded as follows:

"Believing that those who profess Christianity today face one of their greatest challenges through race prejudice and that the love and justice expressed in the teachings, life and work of Jesus Christ are the most effective means of dealing with problems between racial groups, and

"Believing that this power can be effective through my service and my loyalty to God as I come in contact with others in my work, my home, my church and my community, I hereby declare my decision:

"To act positively and constructively wherever racial tensions can be corrected and interracial justice and goodwill advanced.

"To seek fellowship with others who are like-minded and to work with them wherever mutually agreeable.

"To become informed about the facts of race

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Yale School Marks New Era in Alcohol Study

The School of Alcohol Studies which was held from July 7 through August 12 under the auspices of the Laboratory of Applied Physiology of Yale University marks a new approach to the alcohol problem in the U. S. Financed entirely by university funds and under obligation to neither wets nor dries, the school brought together some 80 persons for six weeks of scientific study of the alcohol problem under the leadership of Dr. E. M. Jellinek, associate director of the Laboratory of Applied Physiology. Among those enrolled were a municipal judge, members of Alcoholics Anonymous, a Catholic priest, superintendents of the Anti-Saloon League, social workers, psychologists, school teachers, high school principals, state department of education directors of narcotics education, representatives of license holders, representatives of state liquor monopolies, prison chaplains, ministers, religious educators, state superintendents of education, college professors, and prison parole officers. Students came from all parts of the United States and Canada. Two distillery representatives were enrolled.

The lectures covered such subjects as science and the alcohol problem, alcohol and culture, the drinking habits of primitive peoples, the social mores of drinking classes in America, the nature and manufacture of alcoholic beverages, the metabolism of alcohol, the physiological effects of alcohol, the psychological effects of alcohol, alcohol and nutrition, diseases of chronic alcoholism, alcohol and traffic accidents, concentrations of alcohol in the blood, dynamics of personality, alcohol as a biological problem, alcoholic mental disorders, alcohol, aggression and crime, the intelligence and educational status of the drinker, the feeble-minded drinker, vital statistics, their nature and limitations, alcoholic mortality, suicide and morbidity statistics, the educational approach to the alcohol problem, legislative control of the alcoholic beverage trade, the history of the temperance movement, religion and health, the minister, the community and the alcohol problem, personal counselling of inebriates, and the story of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Among the lecturers were such well known authorities as Dr. E. M. Jellinek, associate and managing editor of the Quarterly Journal of Alcohol Studies and director of the school, Dr. Howard W. Haggard, editor of the Journal and Director of the Yale Laboratory of Applied Physiology, Dr. Lawrence Kolb, Assistant Surgeon General of the U. S. Public Health Service, Dr. Donald Horton, Dr. Leon Greenburg, and Dr. Georgio Lolli, and Dr. John Dollard of the Yale faculty, Dr. Norman Joliffe, New York University College of Medicine, Dr. Andras Angyal, director of research, Massachusetts State Hospital, Dr. Ralph Banay, lecturer in criminal psychopathology, New York University College of Medicine, Dr. Donald Berry, director of the traffic

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The Facts About the So-Called 'Beer Famine'

Under date of July 30, 1943, the New York TIMES carried a special dispatch from Washington describing an impending 'beer famine' which, it is predicted, will not end for several months. Interestingly enough, the dispatch itself carried facts and figures which effectively refute the claim that there is a beer famine in the U.S. and prove, on the contrary, that beer is today being produced at the highest rate in our history. Not even the banner pre-prohibition year 1914 can match what was done in 1942 and what is being done today. In that year brewers made and sold 66,000,000 barrels (2,046,000,000 gallons) of beer. In 1942 they produced 67,701,035 barrels (2,098,735,085 gallons) of the bitter suds, and for the first six months of 1943 production was at the annual rate of 69 million barrels, or something like 2,139,000,000 gallons. That's not a famine; it is a flood!

Why then this cry of 'famine' in the brewing industry? Can it be that brewers are attempting to stir up their customers to protest the cut of 7% ordered by the War Food Administration in the amount of malt allotted to the manufacture of beer effective March 1, 1943? Out of 97,000,000 bushels of malt produced in the U. S., 65,000,000 bushels have been allotted to the brewing industry, 22 million bushels to the manufacture of industrial alcohol for war purposes, and only 8,000,000 bushels to civilian food manufacture and a measly 2 million bushels to our Allies. Yet with 67% of the available malt awarded to the brewers, the cry of 'famine' is raised. There is no beer famine. Whatever 'famine' there is in foodstuffs badly needed to feed the civilian population at home and the starving millions of Europe diverted to fatten the pocketbooks of brewers.

It's An Old, Old Story

The following incidents described in a single issue of the New Haven (Conn.) "Register" on August 6, 1943, are so familiar that one could guess the cause simply from reading the headlines.

In Vancouver, Washington, a mob of 1000 "hoodlums and pay-day drunks," according to Chief of Police John Blaker, piled out of the waterfront taverns where they had been drinking to engage in a riot when a soldier and a civilian engaged in a fight. A second riot of 600 persons broke out in front of the police station an hour later. Police dispersed the mobs with tear gas and called on nearby communities for police aid. Said Mayor Hogg, "I am going to appeal to the governor to see that every beer tavern in Vancouver is closed nights hereafter." Why not days, also?

On the same date in New Haven, Mrs. Helen Pickering, widow and mother of two children, went riding with William Gagliardi. About 10 p. m. she was found bleeding profusely from knife wounds in her right breast and was rushed to the hospital in a dangerous condition. Police arrested Gagliardi the next day just as he was selling his car to a second-hand dealer. Arrested and held under \$10,000 bail Gagliardi told police that he could remember little about the events of the night before because he had been drinking. On the same day a youth in New Haven took refuge on the roof of the newspaper building and defied police for a considerable time. He, too, "had a few drinks."

Congregationalists Launch Service Committee

Some years ago the Congregational Christian Churches took a daring step by launching a Council for Social Action in the depths of the depression, the various boards of the churches yielding substantial sums from their askings to provide an adequate budget for the new enterprise. On August 7th according to Associated Press, this communion once more demonstrated its ability to think ahead of the times by launching the Congregational Christian Service Committee for domestic and international emergency relief and rehabilitation work. This is the first of the non-pacifist communions in the U. S. to form such a committee, though the Friends, Brethren and Mennonite Communions have for a number of years had such committees and have found them to be exceedingly useful. "The projects of this new committee," the announcement of its formation declared, will not only include relief work overseas "in close cooperation with the American Board of Foreign Missions, but also in tension areas within the U.S.A., in cooperation with the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches." The Rev. James C. Flint, of Great Neck, N. Y., has been called as full time director of the enterprise. On the board are a number of well known persons, including Tracy Strong, Sr., secretary of the World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, Dr. John C. Bennett, of Union Theological Seminary, Dr. John E. Schroeder, professor of Yale Divinity School, Elizabeth Herring, secretary of rural work of the national YMCA board, and Miss Lea Taylor, director of Chicago Commons.

The experience of such organizations of the American Friends Service Committee and the Brethren Service Committee point the way toward a more effective Christian service on the part of the churches. It is likely that the Congregational Christian Service Committee is the beginning of a trend in this direction on the part of the major Protestant denominations.

Arthur Swift Heads Post-War Rehabilitation Studies

Announcement is made that Dr. Arthur L. Swift, of the department of Christian Ethics of Union Theological Seminary will head the program of training for post-war rehabilitation abroad to be offered by the Pacific School of Religion, beginning September 6, 1943, and ending August 25, 1944. Dr. Swift will be on leave from his Union Seminary professorship for this service. Announcement of the course stresses the need for trained Christian workers to enter devastated areas as soon as order is restored. The school proposes to serve as a training center for such workers in cooperation with various church

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On Social Frontiers

A new wrinkle in employer-employee relationships was revealed when street car workers went on strike in mid-July to prevent the Mexican Tramway Company of Mexico City from raising fares from 10 to 20 centavos. "Mexican Labor News," says this is the first time in Mexican history that a labor union has called a strike primarily in the interest of the general public rather than in the immediate interest of the workers.

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On July 16, the British Government published a White Paper outlining plans for reconstruction of education. An important section of the report provides for a stronger emphasis upon religious education in the life and work of the public schools. In order to emphasize the importance of religion, provision will be made for all primary and secondary schools to begin the day with corporate worship, except where the nature of the school premises makes this impossible. The established rights of conscience will be protected and parents will be permitted to withdraw children from religious instruction where such is not desired. Church of England and Free Church leaders will cooperate in providing the syllabus to be used. Teachers will be allowed to offer credits in religious subjects as a part of their professional training.

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On August 15, 1943, there were 6,526 men in Civilian Public Service, of whom 1,947 were assigned to general hospitals, mental hospitals, medical research, dairy farms, and other projects on which maintenance is provided, and 4,579 were engaged in such non-maintenance projects as soil conservation, the U. S. Forestry Service, the National Park Service, administrative service, and foreign service. Men in non-maintenance projects are supported by contributions through the historic peace churches.

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Aroused over the alarming increase in juvenile delinquency reported from many areas throughout the nation, the children's Bureau of the Department of Labor has issued three bulletins which will be of great value to pastors, church school superintendents and teachers, as well as to parents and the public generally. The first is entitled, "To Parents in Wartime," and is designed to give guidance in helping children to meet the fears and anxieties that wartime brings. The second is "Community Action in Wartime," to aid church and community groups to meet the problems that confront children in the community. The third is "Wartime Employment of Boys and Girls Under 18," giving a comprehensive survey of the national situation and suggesting principles for guidance. These bulletins can be secured from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C., for 5 cents each. Ask for Children's Bureau publications Nos. 282, 289, and 292, respectively.

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The Commission to Study the Bases of a Just and Durable Peace has released "A Christian Message on World Order," the findings of the International Round Table of Christian Leaders at Princeton, N. J., in July. The report sells for 10 cents and can be secured from the offices of the Commission, 297 Fourth Ave., New York, N. Y. The International Round Table of Christian Leaders was held to prepare for the National Christian Mission on World order scheduled to visit 100 American cities this fall.

Ralph Prather Heads Livingston Academy

On August 1, Ralph Prather of Bloomington, Indiana, became principal of Livingston Academy, Livingston, Tennessee, succeeding J. C. Taylor, who served the institution as principal from 1935 to the close of the school this year. Mr. Prather holds the degrees of B.S. in mathematics from Purdue University and M.A. in education from Columbia University. He has had a number of years experience as teacher and principal in the high schools of Indiana. He was called to Livingston Academy from the faculty of the University High School, Bloomington, Indiana, where he supervised practice teaching in the social sciences of Indiana University students majoring in education. For a number of years Mr. Prather has served as instructor and dean in young peoples' summer conferences and is well known to the young people of our churches. Mrs. Prather shares his love of young people and his devotion to their welfare.

Just prior to leaving for Livingston Mr. Prather received ordination to the Christian ministry on the authority of the First Christian Church of Vincennes, Indiana, of which both he and Mrs. Prather are members. Pastor Ray H. Montgomery was assisted by L. H. Hass, pastor of the Oaktown, Indiana, Christian Church, a long-time friend of Mr. Prather. Mr. Prather expects to exercise his ministry in the field of home missions.

The going of Mr. Prather to Livingston Academy marks a new direction for this institution which for more than 30 years has served the boys and girls of the Cumberland plateau. For some years past the Academy has been operated as an A grade high school under contract with the Overton County Board of Education and has differed little from the average high school. Under the administration of Mr. Prather, assisted by Mr. William D. Hall, pastor of the Livingston church and teacher of Bible in the Academy, it is expected that a more positive religious program will be developed, a program of personal counselling with students inaugurated and school-home relationships strengthened by visitations, conferences, and social events. Also under way are a number of religious extension projects in the surrounding mountain area.

Ralph Q. Adams Called to Hazel Green Academy

On September 1, Ralph Q. Adams, of Kennard, Indiana, was called to become director of religious work at Hazel Green Academy, Hazel Green, Kentucky, and to serve as pastor of the Hazel Green Church, succeeding Hugh Holland, who resigned some months ago to accept a call to the pulpit of the church at Griffin, Georgia. In addition to his preaching, Mr. Adams will teach certain courses in Bible in the Academy and will supervise all religious work on the campus. He will also inaugurate out-station work in schools, churches and communities in the Kentucky mountain area. After attending Johnson Bible College, Mr. Adams received his A.B. degree from Butler University and his B.D. degree from Butler School of Religion in June, 1943. Both Mr. and Mrs. Adams are candidates for foreign service under the United Society and are undertaking the Hazel Green work as background for rural work in the foreign field.

Groups Organize to Meet Growing Racial Tensions

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relations, especially the phases that affect me and others of my community in our daily living.

"To seek Divine guidance and vision for carrying out these intentions."

The plan proposed is outlined in a pamphlet issued by the Federal Council from its offices at 297 Fourth Avenue, New York, New York, and can be had for 6c each, or 4c each in lots of 10 or more.

The socially-minded United Automobile, Aircraft & Agricultural Implement Workers of America (UAW-CIO), immediately denounced the race rioting in Detroit on June 21st as "Hitler's Day in Detroit" and proposed an 8-point program to make future conflicts impossible. Calling attention to the fact that "While white and Negro hoodlums roamed the streets of Detroit, the membership of the UAW-CIO gave a demonstration of the kind of Americanism which made similar violence in the plants impossible" because "White and Negro workers continued to work side by side, ignoring the incitement of hoodlums and deliberate or hysterical circulation of rumors which were worse than the actualities," President R. J. Thomas proposed the following steps be taken:

1. That a special grand jury be created to investigate the riot, with a competent Negro attorney appointed to work as assistant prosecutor and Detroit citizens be asked to give whatever pertinent evidence or information they may have.

2. That the city undertake immediately to construct and open new parks and recreational facilities. The present inadequate park space was already a 'disgrace' before thousands of new arrivals intensified the situation.

3. Immediate and practical plans for rehousing Negro slum dwellers in decent federally-financed housing developments.

4. Insistence that plant management and workers recognize the right of Negroes to jobs in line with their skill and seniority.

5. A special grand jury to investigate the conduct of the Detroit police department during the riot. "I believe that any decent police work could have cleared Woodward Avenue early yesterday and not have permitted mobs to form and reform constantly throughout the day."

6. Special care by the courts to prevent discrimination between white and Negro rioters arrested.

7. Compensation to home owners and owners of small businesses for losses sustained, as well as compensation to those who suffered personal injuries, in order to minimize resentment growing out of the riot.

8. Creation by the mayor of a special bi-racial committee to make further recommendations looking toward elimination of racial differences and friction.

Announcement is also made by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People of the creation of a "Legal Defense and Education Fund" of \$25,000 "to make possible the legal protection of the American Negro community now threatened with widespread invalidation for Negroes of the Bill of Rights." The first task will be legal aid for the 1200 victims of the Detroit riots.

Yale School Marks New Era in Alcohol Study

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department of the National Safety Council, Dr. Harry M. Tiebout, Director Blythewood Sanitarium, Dr. Haven Emerson, professor of Public Health Services, Columbia University School of Medicine, Austin MacCormick, director of the Osborn Association, Rev. Otis Rice, director of religious work, St. Luke's Hospital, New York City, William Wilson, founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, and others.

The purpose of the school was to discover and make known the scientific facts about alcohol and alcohol addiction. It was no part of the purpose of Yale University or those in charge of the program to support any existing point of view, as such, but rather to gather, analyze and classify the known facts relative to beverage alcohol, its nature and its effects upon the individual physically and psychologically, and upon society in general. Many points of view with reference to the use of alcohol were represented, both among students and faculty. However, there was common agreement that alcohol is a dangerous drug, that for so-called 'primary addicts' there can be no such thing as moderation and that the so-called 'secondary addicts' are persons who began to use alcohol in moderation. Out of the 39 million estimated users of alcohol in the U. S. there are perhaps a million excessive users. Of these at least 600,000 are to be classified as chronic alcoholics, with whom alcoholic addiction has assumed the form of a disease that requires physical and psychological treatment. Of these chronic alcoholics, perhaps 200,000 are 'primary addicts' who never were able to drink in moderation, and the remaining 400,000 become alcoholics through continued moderate use of the beverage. Experiments and tests were conducted before the group, both with the use of animals and with human beings. The whole question of statistics and their meaning was explored and first-hand experiences of physicians and psychiatrists who deal with alcoholics were related and discussed.

Of general interest is the announcement that the Summer School of Alcohol Studies will be a permanent feature and that scholarships and fellowships will be available next year. Also that a research bureau in alcohol problems will soon be in operation, as well as a speakers' bureau for national gatherings interested in the problem.

Arthur Swift Heads Post War Rehabilitation Studies

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and government agencies. There will be need, says the announcement, for variously trained and well-balanced men and women to carry on work of personal and community service helping people of the devastated areas to recover the capacity to trust people again, to turn emotions of revenge into constructive channels of community rebuilding and revive the sheer will and grit to live and take up life again. In addition to courses in history, geography and racial and ethical groupings, stress will be laid on psychological and spiritual rehabilitation of persons suffering from shock, despair and depression.